

CLAIM AMENDMENT

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Amended): Antibodies useful for immunoassays to detect a peptide which peptide comprises human brain natriuretic peptide of the formula:

Ser-Pro-Lys-Met-Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Arg-Lys-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Ser-
S P K M V Q G S G C F G R K M D R I S S
Ser-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys-Lys-Val-Leu-Arg-Arg-His,
S S G L G C K V L R R H
or a C-terminal amide thereof. (SEQ ID NO: 49)

33 - 40 (Cancelled)

41. (Previously added): The antibodies of claim 32 which are monoclonal antibodies.

42. (Previously added): The antibodies of claim 32 which further comprise a label.

43. (Previously added, currently amended): A method to perform an immunoassay to detect human ~~or canine~~ brain natriuretic peptide in a sample which method comprises contacting said sample with the antibodies of claim 32 and assessing the ability of said antibodies to immunoreact with one or more components contained in said sample.

44. (Previously added, currently amended): A kit for conducting an immunoassay to detect human ~~or canine~~ brain natriuretic peptide which kit comprises the antibodies of claim 32 in containers and reagents capable of recognizing and specifically binding to said ~~peptides~~ peptide or said antibodies in additional containers.